



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:** Carol Crockett  
Travel Montana  
406-841-2870

Marissa Kozel  
Montana Department of Commerce  
406-841-2772

**Montana Communities to Receive Commerce Funds Totaling  
\$61,500 for Tourism Related Events**

(HELENA) – Seven Montana communities have been selected to receive a total of **\$61,500** in grant funding from the Travel Montana's Special Events Grant Program (SEGP), through the Montana Department of Commerce.

The Montana communities of **Fairfield, Glendive, Great Falls, Harlowton, Kalispell, Missoula** and **Troy** will use the SEGP funds to assist in the promotion and implementation of tourism-related events. The events were selected for the grant awards through a review and scoring process conducted by Travel Montana and members of the Governor-appointed Tourism Advisory Council.

"Montana's on the move. The state recognizes that the key to sustaining success in Montana's tourism economy is to invest in our communities and the experiences we are able to offer our visitors," said Governor Brian Schweitzer. "These events showcase our wonderful people and our unique visitor opportunities."

"The Montana Department of Commerce strongly supports tourism events in our local communities," said Commerce Director Anthony Preite. "Creating sustainable events helps our cities and towns attract new dollars to their Main Street. Seventy-seven cents of each visitor dollar is spent within our local communities."

**Communities Receiving 2008 SEGP Awards:**

**\$2,500:** Fairfield, Fairfield Chamber of Commerce – Fairfield Days Gone By

**\$10,400:** Glendive, Image Productions, Inc. – Sweet Home Miss Montana Week

**\$8,500:** Great Falls, Cascade County Historical Society – A Night at the Ozark  
**\$12,200:** Harlowton, Harlowton Chamber of Commerce – Festival of the Wind  
**\$10,900:** Kalispell, Glacier Symphony and Chorale – Festival Amadeus  
**\$7,000:** Missoula, Run Wild Missoula – Missoula Marathon  
**\$10,000:** Troy, Troy Fine Arts Council – Kootenai River Bluegrass Festival

The SEGP was developed in 2002 to assist communities with economic development through the creation and/or enhancement of new annual, on-going events. Grant funds are available for event marketing, equipment rental, insurance, performer fees, security and mailings. To date, the SEGP program has provided \$412,500 in grant funding to 59 events in numerous Montana communities.

The deadline for the next round of grant applications will be announced in mid-October 2008. For information, contact Travel Montana, 406-841-2870.

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